

We claim:

1. A method for preventing termite tunneling and tubing on non-wood and/or non-cellulosic materials by treating non-wood building components comprising the steps of:
applying a composition to the surfaces of a non-wood building component; and
wherein the composition comprises a borate component.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is a borate solution comprising glycol, disodium octaborate tetrahydrate, and water, wherein the disodium octaborate tetrahydrate comprises from 10 to 30 % of the solution by weight.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is applied in an amount effective to prevent termites from forming tubes across the surface of the non-wood building component.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is applied to all external surfaces of the non-wood building component.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-wood building component is cementitious.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-wood building component is a metal.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-wood building component is polymeric.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the solution does not penetrate throughout the interior of the non-wood building component.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises borates from compounds selected from the group consisting of boric acid, sodium borates, zinc borates, calcium borates, sodium calcium borates, calcium magnesium borates, and organic borates.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is applied by spraying, dipping, brushing, roller coating, misting, foaming, fogging, powder coating, pressure immersion, or gaseous application.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein applying a composition to the surfaces of a non-wood building component comprises applying a composition to the interior and/or exterior walls of a ready built or partially built structure.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein applying a composition to the surfaces of a non-wood building component comprises applying a composition to cavities of a ready built structure.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein applying a composition to the surfaces of a non-wood building component comprises applying a composition to a concrete slab or to foundation walls of new or existing structures.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein applying a composition to the surfaces of a non-wood building component comprises applying a composition to non-wood materials in and around bath traps or other areas where external utilities are brought into a structure.

15. A method for preventing termite damage to man-made structures comprising the steps of:

- mixing borates with a solvent to form a borate solution;
- obtaining a non-wood building component;
- coating the non-wood building component with the borate solution;
- incorporating the coated non-wood building component into a man-made structure.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the coated non-wood building component is incorporated into the man-made structure at that portion between the ground and wood or cellulosic materials, wherein the non-wood building component forms a non-traversable termite barrier.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the termite damage to be prevented is that caused by *Reticulitermes*, *Heterotermes* or *Coptotermes*.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the borate solution comprises glycol, disodium octaborate tetrahydrate, and water, wherein the disodium octaborate tetrahydrate comprises from 10 to 30 % of the solution by weight.
19. The method of claim 15, wherein the borate solution is applied in an amount effective to prevent termites from forming tubes across the surface of the building component.
20. The method of claim 15, wherein the borate solution is applied to all external surfaces of the building component.
21. The method of claim 15, wherein the building component is cementitious.
22. The method of claim 15, wherein the non-wood building component is a metal.
23. The method of claim 15, wherein the non-wood building component is polymeric.
24. The method of claim 15, wherein the coating on the non-wood building component does not penetrate throughout the interior of the non-wood building component.

25. The method of claim 15, wherein the borates are from compounds selected from the group consisting of boric acid, sodium borates, zinc borates, calcium borates, sodium calcium borates, calcium magnesium borates, silicon borates and organic borates.

26. The method of claim 15, wherein the borate solution is applied by spraying, dipping, brushing, roller coating, pressure immersion, or gaseous application.

27. A non-wood building component comprising:
a non-wood substrate; and
a coating comprising borates;
wherein the coating is disposed on the surfaces of the non-wood substrate.

28. The non-wood building component of claim 27, wherein the coating comprises an amount of borates effective to prevent termites from forming tubes over the surface of the non-wood substrate.

29. The non-wood building component of claim 27, wherein the coating is applied as a solution comprising glycol, disodium octaborate tetrahydrate, and water, wherein the disodium octaborate tetrahydrate comprises from 10 to 30 % of the solution by weight.

30. The non-wood building component of claim 27, wherein the borate solution is applied to all accessible surfaces of the non-wood substrate.
31. The non-wood building component of claim 27, wherein the non-wood substrate is cementacious.
32. The non-wood building component of claim 27, wherein the non-wood building component is a metal.
33. The non-wood building component of claim 27, wherein the non-wood building component is polymeric.
34. The non-wood building component of claim 27, wherein the coating on the non-wood substrate does not penetrate throughout the interior of the non-wood substrate.
35. The non-wood building component of claim 27, wherein the borates are from compounds selected from the group consisting of boric acid, sodium borates, zinc borates, calcium borates, sodium calcium borates, calcium magnesium borates, silicon borates, and organic borates, or mixtures thereof.
36. The non-wood building component of claim 27, wherein the coating is applied by spraying, misting, fogging, foaming, dipping, brushing, roller coating, pressure immersion, or gaseous application, or by powder coating.

37. The non-wood building component of claim 27, wherein the coating forms a complete or partial barrier between the soil and the rest of the structure that is non traversable by termites.

38. The non-wood building component of claim 27, further comprising a coating of a penetration minimizing agent.